

**In the Claims:**

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

21. (new) An apparatus comprising:

a toroidal body composed of a material having high electromagnetic permeability and the body having a through bore;

an electrical device coupled to the toroidal body;

a loop antenna disposed to extend through the through bore in direct magnetic coupled relationship with the toroidal body.

22. (new) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the loop antenna is in mechanically de-coupled relationship with the toroidal body.

23. (new) An apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the loop antenna lies substantially in a first plane that intersects the toroidal body opening at a substantially right angle.

24. (new) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the electrical device comprises a transponder.

25. (new) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the loop antenna comprises at least one wire.

26. (new) An annular apparatus comprising:

a toroidal body composed of a material having high electromagnetic permeability and the body having a through bore;

a transponder coupled to the toroidal body;

a loop antenna disposed to extend through the through bore in a magnetically coupled relationship and a mechanically de-coupled relationship with the toroidal body.

27. (new) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the loop antenna lies

substantially in a first plane that intersects the toroidal body opening at a substantially right angle.

28. (new) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the loop antenna comprises at least one wire formed into a substantially sinusoidal wave conformation.

29. (new) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the transponder and the toroidal body reside within a common housing.

30. (new) In an apparatus of the type comprising a toroidal body composed of material having high electromagnetic permeability and the body having a through bore; a transponder coupled to the toroidal body, and a loop antenna magnetically coupled to the transponder through the toroidal body, characterized in that the loop antenna extends through the central opening in a non-contacting and mechanically decoupled relationship with the toroidal body.

31. (new) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the loop antenna lies within a first plane normally disposed to the toroidal body through bore.

32. (new) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the loop antenna is in direct magnetically coupled relationship and mechanically de-coupled relationship with the toroidal body.

33. (new) An apparatus according to claim 30, further characterized as including a housing in which the toroidal body and the transponder commonly reside.

34. (new) A method of associating a loop antenna with an electronic device through a toroidal body composed of a material of high elector-magnetic permeability and the body having a through bore, comprising the steps of:

positioning the loop antenna to project through the through bore in non-contacting and mechanically decoupled relationship with the toroidal body;

establishing a direct magnetic coupling between the loop antenna and the toroidal body; and coupling the electronic device to the antenna through the toroidal body.

35. (new) A method as set forth in claim 34, further comprising the step of orienting the loop antenna to lie within a first plane normally disposed to the toroidal body through bore.

36. (new) A method according to claim 34, further comprising the step of locating the toroidal body and the electronic device within a common housing.

37. (new) A method of associating a loop antenna with an electronic device through a toroidal body composed of a material of high electromagnetic permeability and the body having a central opening, comprising the steps of:

establishing a magnetic coupling between the loop antenna and the toroidal body;

coupling the electronic device to the antenna through the toroidal body;  
embedding at least a portion of the antenna loop and at least a portion of the electronic device in an electrically non-conductive encapsulant material to maintain the antenna loop and the toroidal body in a specified orientation.

38. (new) A method according to claim 37, further comprising the step of extending the antenna through the toroidal body through bore in a mechanically de-coupled relationship therewith.

39. (new) A method according to claim 38, further comprising the steps of:  
positioning the toroidal body in an orientation in which the antenna intersects the through bore at substantially a right angle; and  
employing the encapsulant material to maintain the toroidal body in said orientation.

40. (new) A method according to claim 37, further comprising the step of employing the encapsulant material to render the toroidal body and the electronic device unitarily transportable.